

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



A98.6
F762M

AD-33 Bookplate
(1-63)

NATIONAL

**A
G
R
I
C
U
L
T
U
R
A
L**



LIBRARY A98.6

62787

F762M



MT. JEFFERSON WILD AREA PROPOSAL

The Mt. Jefferson Primitive Area has been studied to determine its suitability for reclassification as a wild or wilderness area. Results of the study and a description of the proposed boundary changes are presented in this summary.

The Mt. Jefferson Wild area proposal is a part of the Department of Agriculture's study of National Forest primitive areas to determine their suitability for wild or wilderness classification.

The proposal is to establish a 96,944-acre wild area in place of the existing 86,700-acre primitive area. For the most part, the boundaries are placed on well-defined topographic features which are easily identifiable on the ground. The boundaries are also located to minimize existing or possible future conflicts with the maintenance of wilderness conditions.

Forest Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Pacific Northwest Region
Portland, Oregon

August 1963



HISTORY OF PRIMITIVE AREAS

In 1929 the Secretary of Agriculture provided authority for establishing primitive areas. These areas, classified and managed under Regulation L-20, were to be maintained in primitive condition. Regulation L-20 was superseded in 1939. New regulations U-1 and U-2 provided for wilderness and wild areas with public use more restricted than in primitive areas. Since 1939, primitive areas have been managed, insofar as possible, under the more protective provisions of the new regulations. Forest Service policies provide for the study of the primitive areas and direct that those portions most valuable for wilderness purposes be reclassified under either Regulation U-1 or U-2, depending upon their size. A wilderness area contains at least 100,000 acres and a wild area at least 5,000 acres.

MT. JEFFERSON PROPOSAL

Mt. Jefferson has long been recognized as having wilderness values. Studies which began in the 1920's resulted in classification of the Mt. Jefferson Primitive Area on October 30, 1930. In 1933, 34,500 acres were added bringing the total to the present 86,700 acres.

The proposed wild area is located on the Deschutes, Mt. Hood, and Willamette National Forests, about 60 miles southeast of Salem, Oregon. The Warm Springs Indian Reservation borders the area on the northeast. The proposed area extends along the crest of the Cascades from the vicinity of Breitenbush Lake southward approximately 24 miles almost to the Santiam Highway. The average width is six miles. Elevations range from 3,000 feet in the lowest valleys to 10,497 feet at Mt. Jefferson, Oregon's second highest peak. Annual precipitation averages 75 inches, mostly in the form of snow.

Mt. Jefferson is the most impressive feature in the area. Although the peak has several large glaciers, much of it is free of snow in the late summer and fall, and massive rock outcrops and talus slopes are visible. Jefferson Park on the northern base and Hunts Cove on the southern flank offer spectacular views of the mountain.

PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES

Recommended boundary changes are designed to place the proposed wild area on readily recognizable and identifiable topographic features. This requires a number of small additions and exclusions. Other proposed boundary changes are based on predominant resource values.

Figure 1 shows the proposed boundary of the Mt. Jefferson Wild Area, the present boundary of the primitive area, the major additions and exclusions, and the proposed Marion Lake Scenic Area.

Proposed Additions

Candle Creek - 3,970 acres. This major addition includes the Jefferson Creek and Cabot Creek lava flows. It is shown as "A" on the map. These extensive lava flows surrounding an island of Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, and white fir trees contribute exceptional wilderness and scientific values to the area.

Santiam Pass - 5,447 acres. This major addition extends the boundary to identifiable features approximately one-half mile from the Santiam Pass Highway. It is shown as "B" on the map. The alpine timber types and open meadows make this an ideal area for wilderness use.

Pamelia Lake - 630 acres. This small addition includes Pamelia Lake and about one mile of Pamelia Creek. It provides a wilderness entry to the alpine areas through a dense stand of old growth Douglas-fir timber.

South Fork Breitenbush River - 819 acres. This area was added to maintain the scenic wilderness character of the upper reaches of this river. Trails follow both the north and south ridges to Jefferson Park. A planned road to Fire Camp Lakes with limited recreational developments will implement the use of the wild area.

Proposed Exclusions

Minto Creek - 1,440 acres. This major exclusion includes parts of Lizard and Bingham Ridges. It is shown as "C" on the map. The area eliminated has limited wilderness values. Most of this area is commercial forest land which should be managed for timber production.

Marion Lake - 393 acres. The proposed Marion Lake Scenic Area is shown as "D" on the map. This new 1,430-acre scenic area will include Marion Lake, Marion Falls, and Lake Ann. The management plan provides for the protection of the natural and scenic beauty of the area. Improved campgrounds will be developed at several points around the lake to accommodate the heavy recreation use. Access to the area will be by trail only.

PROPOSED MT. JEFFERSON WILD AREA

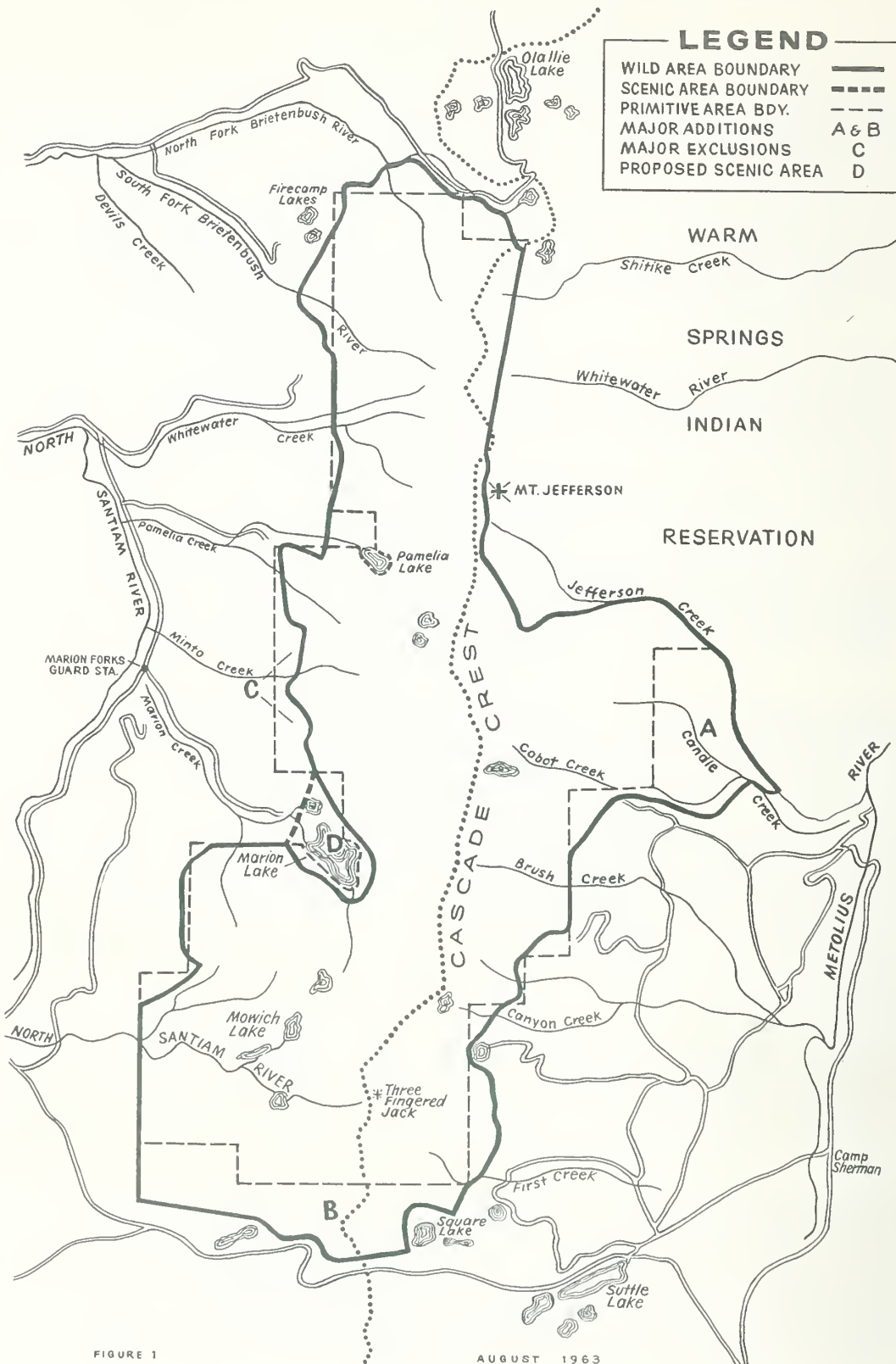


FIGURE 1

AUGUST 1963

Boundary modifications result in the following acreage changes:

All National Forest Land

Acres

MT. JEFFERSON PRIMITIVE AREA 86,700

Additions:

Candle Creek (Area "A" on map) 3,970

Santiam Pass (Area "B" on map) 5,447

Minor adjustments - Total 4,475 13,892

Total acres studied 100,592

Exclusions:

Minto Creek (Area "C" on map) 1,440

Minor adjustments - Total 2,208 -3,648

MT. JEFFERSON WILD AREA 96,944



RESOURCES

Recreation. The area is relatively close to Portland, Salem, Albany, Corvallis, Eugene, Bend and other Oregon communities. It provides an enjoyable wilderness, outstanding scenery, numerous lakes and alpine meadows. There are nearly 200 miles of trails including 35 miles of the Oregon Skyline Trail. The area offers ideal recreation for hikers, riders, photographers and mountain climbers.

Forage. Except for scattered meadows, there is almost no grass-producing land. Forage for pack and saddle stock is limited and use will be controlled where necessary.

Timber. Commercial timber stands occupy 60% of the total area. This represents about 1.3 billion board feet of timber. Most of this is on the west side of the Cascade Mountains. Another 28% of the area is non-commercial forest and the remaining 12% consists of meadows, lakes and streams, rock barrens, and glaciers. Except at lower elevations, the timber production potential is relatively low because of shallow, rocky soils and low soil fertility.

Geology. Mt. Jefferson and Three Fingered Jack contain evidence of glaciated volcanism from the Pliocene Age. Pumice, cinder cones, and lava flows have been produced by more recent effusions.

Minerals. The geologic origin of other portions of the Cascade Mountains does not indicate the probability of important mineral deposits being present. There are no patented claims or active mining on the area.

Big Game. Mule deer, black-tailed deer, elk, bear, and cougar are found in the area. No significant habitat problems exist. Hunting is popular within the proposed wild area boundary and it can be expected to increase.

Fish. Fishing is a major attraction of the area. Of the nearly 100 lakes, at least half are considered to be good for fishing. The Oregon State Game Commission stocks the high lakes that will support fish.

OCCUPANCY

Fire control improvements include a guard station at Pamela Lake and lookouts at Bear Point, Grizzly Mountain, Marion Mountain, and Maxwell Butte. Power withdrawals are located on the North Santiam and Marion Creek drainages. There are no occupancy permits in the proposed area.

The Forest Service welcomes your opinions or suggestions regarding this proposal. If there is a reasonable demand, a public hearing will be held.

Further specific information concerning the proposal may be obtained from the following:

Forest Supervisor
Deschutes National Forest
P.O. Box 751
Bend, Oregon

Forest Supervisor
Willamette National Forest
P.O. Box 1272
Eugene, Oregon

Forest Supervisor
Mt. Hood National Forest
P.O. Box 5241
Portland, Oregon

Regional Forester
U. S. Forest Service
P.O. Box 3623
Portland, Oregon





